

# THE KUUMBA PROJECT: COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING VACCINE CONFIDENCE TOGETHER THROUGH MICRO- CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE SUPPORTING BLACK, INDIGENOUS, RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES

2024-2025 One Pager



Dr. Peter  
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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION



**Project Goal:** This project aims to support community-based health care providers across Canada in their efforts to support underserved populations in gaining confidence and equitable access to vaccines utilizing a low-barrier, integrated health care approach to improve linkages to overall care.

**Microgrant Program:** Provide up to \$25,000 microgrants to organizations that will be used to address local barriers to vaccination among frontline workers and the populations they serve.

**Year Four:** Year four focused on African, Caribbean, Black, Indigenous, and racialized populations facing poverty and social exclusion; including newcomers, immigrants, refugees, seniors, parents of large families, and those who are isolated due to factors such as language barriers and racism.

## 2024-2025 MICROGRANTEES



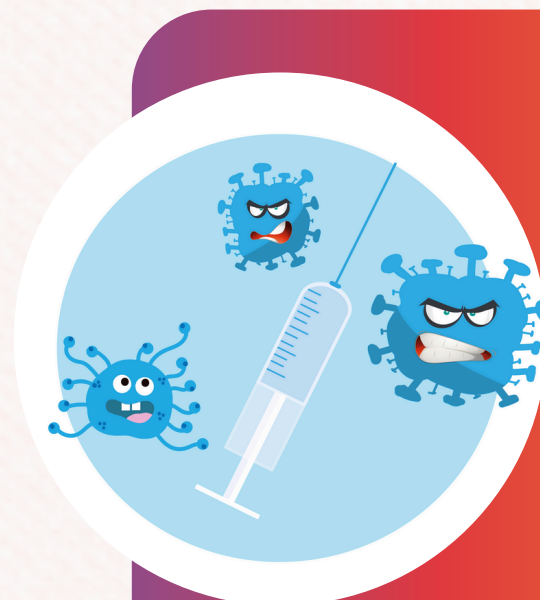
**TAIBU Community Health Centre** — Community Solutions for Building Vaccine Confidence

- Developed a Best Practice Guidelines rooted in Afrocentric Principles, ensuring that the approach and decision-making reflect the appropriate cultural context.
- Developed a Tool Kit: Offering actionable steps, planning frameworks, and guiding questions to facilitate community engagement.
- Consulted with the Community: Incorporated feedback from prior community engagement and sharing drafts for further input.
- Involved Primary Care Providers: To offer clinical insights for improving resources.
- Knowledge Mobilization: Materials to be distributed to relevant public and community health organizations, enabling them to strengthen their immunization strategies.

## AT A GLANCE HIGHLIGHTS



- A total of \$100,000 was distributed among four organizations across three provinces.
- Over 2,078 vaccines were administered in year four, including COVID-19, Influenza, MMR, DTaP, and Hepatitis A & B.
- Seventy-six vaccination clinics were held, including mobile and pop-up options to improve accessibility.
- More than 950 gift cards were distributed to incentivize healthcare access, including vaccines and STBBI testing.
- Over 15 healthcare activities, such as community events, workshops, and health fairs, were offered to support capacity building for health providers and stakeholders.
- Four bilingual national Community of Practice (CoP) video calls connected agencies across Canada to reduce vaccine access barriers for vulnerable populations.





# 2024-2025 MICROGRANTEES CONTINUED



## NorWest Community Health Centres — Pop-Up and Drop-In Vaccination Clinics

- Created Low-Barrier Pop-Up and Drop-In Clinics: Through the Care Bus, accessible clinics were established in areas facing care, transportation, and language barriers.
- Collaborated with Partners: Hosted mobile vaccination clinics based on feedback from peers, individuals with lived experience and collaborators.
- Provided Meals: Offered meals at pop up and drop-in clinics to maximize engagement and address food insecurity.
- Offered Additional Health Supports: Including midwifery care, wound care, and testing services for Hep C, HIV, and M-POX. Connected Individuals to community partners.
- Developed Targeted Communication Materials: Created resources for social media and print to effectively reach the community. Shared all resources on NWCHC's website for use by other organizations.

## Wellness Wheel INC. — Improving Vaccine Access to Regina's Underserved Community

- Regular Vaccine Outreach: Delivered vaccines weekly at various community locations.
- Educational Interactions: Engaged with individuals to discuss the benefits of vaccines.
- Pop-Up Clinics: Set up temporary vaccine clinics in accessible locations to reach more people.
- Food Security and Incentives for Participation: Provided food to address food insecurity and offered gift cards as incentives for receiving vaccines.
- Mobile Vaccination Services: Used a mobile vehicle to provide home vaccinations for children facing barriers to accessing clinics.



## Interlake Reserves Tribal Council — Food Security as Harm Reduction and Social Prescription for Overall Health & Well-Being.

- Breakfast for School Kids: Engaged youth in raising awareness about STBBIs and substance overdose through community breakfast programs.
- Promoted Childhood Immunizations: In collaboration with public health nurses.
- National Substance Use Awareness Week: Hosted educational activities including peer vaccine clinics and capacity building and distributed care packages.
- STBBI Testing: Conducted peer STBBI testing during National Sexual Health Awareness Week.
- Grocery Gift Cards: Provided gift cards to eight communities in the Interlake region, using them as incentives for nurses to engage families and individuals in a variety of care options

## AT A GLANCE



### ACTIVITIES

**Community of Practice:** As part of our efforts to explore solutions for improving vaccine access we hosted a four-part Community of Practice (CoP) series titled "Vaccine Equity: How Do We Get There?"

Over the course of these four sessions, experts and community leaders came together to share insights and strategies. A recurring theme throughout the discussions was the critical importance of trust, representation, and culturally responsive approaches in addressing systemic barriers and advancing vaccine equity.

**Virtual Incubator:** In February, a virtual incubator brought together the four micrograntees to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing. Participants discussed their projects, celebrated successes, and exchanged strategies and ideas. The incubator also facilitated the sharing of lessons learned and problem-solving around key challenges. A virtual graphic designer was hired to illustrate the projects and highlight their successes.





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## NEXT STEPS



The fifth year of the Kuumba Project has kicked off with planning well underway for this year's CoP calls and Micrograntees. Microgrant mapping is in progress, which includes identifying frontline organizations across Canada, inviting them to CoP calls, and fostering relationships with potential and past micrograntees. The goal is to distribute grants before cold and flu season. Additionally, planning for the 2025-2026 CoP calls is also underway, with tentative dates selected, themes chosen, and speakers already contacted

## EXPLORE MORE



[TAIBU COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE](#)

[NORWEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES](#)

[INTERLAKE RESERVES TRIBAL COUNCIL](#)

[WELLNESS WHEEL INC.](#)

[VIRTUAL GRAPHIC DESIGN - INCUBATOR](#)

## AT A GLANCE



### CHALLENGES

Building trust with frontline organizations has taken longer than expected. Many of these organizations serve African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB), Indigenous, and other racialized communities, and the historical and ongoing experiences of marginalization have led to deep-rooted mistrust toward larger institutions and systems. That mistrust is often shared by the leaders of these frontline organizations, who carry the responsibility of safeguarding the well-being of their communities and are understandably cautious in forming new partnerships.

Furthermore, many of these frontline organizations are significantly overextended. Their limited capacity and time make it difficult to engage in relationship-building or cross-sector collaboration, even when there is willingness to do so.

